

MICHIGAN TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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The MTOA News Letter is Back!!!

Attention all members... let me give you some great news. After a short lapse in the association due to some technical difficulties, the MTOA is back up and running better than ever. I know there have been some rumors floating around about whether the association had shut down or not. Let me tell you that it has NOT shut down, and is up and running more efficiently than before. I know some of you have had trouble renewing your memberships and some have been unsuccessfully looking for affordable training. And some of you were looking for that camaraderie that goes along with meeting with your fellow tactical officers. Well, I am here to tell you that all that has returned, and more. The MTOA has a new P.O. Box address to more efficiently handle all the correspondence coming in. There is a totally new website up and running. The website address is the same, but it has a facelift and will be updated on a regular basis. You'll discover a totally dynamic website worth checking out. As part of the new website there will be direct links to the board members' email addresses so you may contact them to find out answers to any questions you have about the association or training events to come. In addition, the association has a new fax number to handle registrations and memberships. The new number is: (586) 948-3037. We also have some new members on the executive board. I'd like to welcome Chris Periatt of St. Clair Shores PD as the Secretary, Shawn Mortier of Detroit PD SRT as the Director of Training, Carl Hospedales formerly of British Spec Ops as the Training & Tactical Equipment Consultant, Scott Rutoski of A-Zone as the Tactical Equipment Consultant, and Tom LeClair of Windsor EMS as the TEMS Consultant. These new executive board members will be bringing a wealth of experience and motivation to the association to better serve the membership. Plans are already being made for this year's conference, scheduled April 13 & 14, 2006. We hope for it to be the biggest one ever. It will be held in a new location next year and courses are already being planned and organized. We of the executive board sincerely hope that you operators have not given up on the association. We apologize for any inconvenience this lapse in continuity may have caused you or your team and are fully devoted to the association and the membership. Please visit the website and email one or all of us with your inquiries, input, and requests for specific types of training. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you in the near future.

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LESSONS LEARNED IN BAGHDAD

Shaggy

I have just returned to the USA. I have been in Baghdad, Iraq since October 2004. I was working as a Team Leader assigned to the Counter-Terrorism Special Operations Forces overseen by the Department of Defense. I will be writing a few articles for the newsletter depicting some of the experiences I had over in the war zone. Some of the information will not be dispersed due to OPSEC and I will use only callsigns for personnel involved, not real names, to protect their identity. (There is a high-dollar bounty on all US personnel in-theater, and the insurgents have cells all over the United States that may commit heinous acts here if those personnel and/or their families can be located, so anonymity will be retained.) I will not exaggerate any incidents and all information will be divulged as accurately as possible to give you an idea what it was really like stationed in Baghdad in 2004 and 2005.



First, let me say, that regardless of what the media is reporting, the war is NOT over. One of the first things I heard upon getting home was a radio show where they were commenting on the "Post-War" situation in Iraq. Well, let me tell you it certainly doesn't appear to be any "Post-War" situation in Baghdad. I left Baghdad at the end of August, 2005, and the insurgents were unaware of any "Post War" situation. Infact it had been getting significantly more dangerous each day that passed while I was in-theater. The difficult thing about the war in Iraq is that there is no "front line". There is no area you can turn your back on and just concentrate all your focus in a single direction where the enemy is located. The threat is everywhere in Iraq and death and destruction can occur anywhere at any time. The media reports about 10% of what is really happening over there and it appears to be tainted to show the American public that US troops are not needed in Iraq anymore. During my time there I

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experienced several situations where the US Military troops withdrew from a location and gave that zone back to the Iraqis to control. The Iraqis were not able to control the zone and within days that zone was declared hostile again, as the insurgents had taken it back over and it was considered a danger zone again. I received emails from friends and family on countless occasions asking if I was anywhere near the car bomb on the news that day. Since I had no idea which car bomb they were talking about, I couldn't answer their questions accurately. There were several car bombs in and around Baghdad everyday, much less the countless other detonations throughout the country. Baghdad is the wild, wild west. You have to be on full alert everywhere you go. Body armor, grenades, weapons and extra ammunition is considered mandatory dress at all times. I'm not talking about a concealable vest like most police officers here wear under their uniform daily. The body armor used in Iraq is similar to the entry vests most SWAT teams wear. Level 3 and 4 are the rule, not the exception.

To give you an idea of the equipment used I will describe the gear issued to me that I utilized on a daily basis. I wore a level 4 Predator vest, with pouches that held 8 extra rifle magazines, GPS unit, 2 Motorola radios, knife, Leatherman tool, 2 fragmentation grenades, DefTec flashbang, camelback, personal trauma med-kit, infrared strobe, several cyalume light sticks, and miscellaneous other gear. I carried an AK-47 rifle with EOTech HWS sight and a Glock 9mm pistol in a Safariland thigh holster with 3 extra pistol magazines. All in all, I carried approximately 60 pounds of gear to get me through the day.

The weather is hot. As you would suspect there is no humidity. They have different seasons there, but not like anything in Michigan. Spring and fall are in the high 90's to low 100's every day, winter can get down below freezing, but there is no snow in Baghdad and the summer gets hot. I mean really hot. It was 129 degrees the day I left Iraq, and that was a cooler day. The temperature this summer topped 140 on several occasions and 130-135 was the daily temp. The coolest it got at night was approximately 85-90 degrees. So it never really cools off in the summer time. A lot of people have asked me what it's like to be in that kind of heat all day long. The only thing I can think of to describe it is to turn your oven on to 135 degrees, let it heat up, and then climb inside.

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Any breeze on those days is not refreshing; it is like someone pointing a huge hairdryer at you. Touching any part of a vehicle burns your hand. Your rifle gets so hot you can only handle it by the grips and wearing gloves is required. That's hot. You basically drink water continuously all day long. As soon as one bottle of water is empty, you grab the next one and start drinking. You drain your camelback in no time. Ice is a luxury. Sometimes we had cold water, but most of the time we drank it warm. Either way, you just keep drinking it. If you didn't drink water, you ended up with a trip to the Med-Shed where they rehydrated you with IV's. The Docs had other things to worry about than taking care of someone who was not smart enough to keep hydrated, so they would use a large gauge needle to deter guys from repeat visits. Americans were smart enough to stay hydrated, but several Iraqi Police Officers and Commandos were not. Usually when they went back to their unit and told the story about the size of the needle used, the other guys in the unit smartened up and drank lots of water.

The time I spent in Iraq was beneficial and I gained a lot of experience to pass onto others back here in the USA. In future articles I will describe some of the experiences I encountered over there and talk about gear issues. It is so good to be back home in the beautiful USA. A lot of Americans don't realize how good we have it here in this country. A lot of them take their freedom for granted. People need to stand behind our men and women in the military. They are doing a near impossible job over there in Iraq. Without them the USA would not be the wonderful paradise it truly is. I wish all the men and women of the Coalition Forces a speedy & safe return. Keep them in your prayers. They can use all the help they can get. They are heroes... every last one of them.

More to follow.

This article was obtained from the internet. The MTOA does NOT endorse

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the article and it is only printed for informational purposes as to how some extremists view SWAT Teams. Our membership needs to be well informed, even when the information is blatantly negative such as this article.

How to Beat Special Forces and S.W.A.T. Teams

To enforce tyranny, the systems rely on Special Forces and SWAT Teams. Special Forces and SWAT are paramilitary death-squads that participate in more advanced training for fighting in unusual environments. The distinguishing factor is their ability to fight in close-quarters with a small group to achieve their goals.

Each organization has teams with slightly different training and goals, but essentially they are all the same. The police have SWAT, the Army has Delta Force, and the Navy has SEALs. But a goon by any name is still a goon.

Up to now, SWAT has proven disastrous for underground activists and their movements in the USA.

Is SWAT effective? **Yes.** Does it get results? **Absolutely.** Is SWAT invincible? No.

Despite their massive firepower and use of brute force, SWAT teams have weaknesses that can be exploited.

A typical SWAT element is composed of five people -- a Team Leader, a Scout, a Backup, and two Assaulters.

The Team Leader is the most experienced of the five. The Team Leader is in direct voice-contact with the other four members of the SWAT element. All wear a hands-free radio with an earpiece and a throat-vibration microphone.

All team members carry Heckler & Koch 9mm MP-5 sub-machineguns and .45ACP or 9mm semi-automatic pistols.

SWAT members wear balaclavas for the purpose of intimidating suspects and bystanders. The balaclava also keeps them anonymous -- this is

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handy because they reside in the same communities whose citizens they execute.

SWAT members wear military helmets and bullet-resistant body-armor. These guys are goons in the true sense of the word. They'll kill you and go for lunch five minutes later. It's nothing to them. Because of their myopic training, they figure the solution to every problem is massive application of force, preferably lethal.

In a typical call-out, the SWAT element is reinforced by uniformed police officers, who form a containment perimeter around the suspect's location. Snipers may also be present. A Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) is often mustered.

CNT is somewhat of a misnomer, because their actual role is to obtain intelligence for an assault by SWAT -- and to fatally distract the suspect in the moments preceding the assault.

Weakness: LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE TERRAIN. SWAT teams plan for many different environments, but can never know the terrain that they will be going into EXACTLY. You are on the ground there first, do your homework. Scout the building or area completely, and know it like the back of your hand. Find areas of weakness or exposure for incoming SWAT teams. Try to lure them into those areas and then act.

Weakness: TRAINING. They think of it as an advantage, and it is. Training is the only way to know how you and your team will react in any situation. However, this advantage can be turned to weakness. The SWAT teams have a response for every situation, and that response is PREDICTABLE. Take time to study SWAT training, and you will see that they perform standard maneuvers in situations. Apply this knowledge to your local environment, and you will be able to map out a SWAT team's reaction everywhere in your location. If you are in a building, study widely available SWAT manuals for these maneuvers.

Weakness: INTELLIGENCE. SWAT and Special Forces teams rely on intelligence to find and identify targets, which usually means paid informants. They pass their information on to the commanders of the units.

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TACTICAL RESPONSE -- Confusion is the worst enemy of Special Forces. Interrupt the intelligence chain with conflicting reports. Use double agents as the paid informants. Broadcast erroneous information.

Weakness: LACK OF MOBILITY. Their gear prevents them from sprinting long distances in pursuit of a suspect.

A number of suspects have escaped in exactly this scenario. This is the reason behind the containment perimeter. The regular cops pin you inside the "holding pen" while the SWAT goons methodically stalk you and then dispatch you, preferably from behind.

TACTICAL RESPONSE -- If you know the terrain, you'll often be able to beat the containment ring. The cops on the perimeter cover the escape routes and checkpoints. The ring has gaps you can exploit. The cops seldom cover hidden routes that only the local residents know about. Do your homework. Gather accurate intelligence. And rehearse.

Weakness: THEY DON'T THINK. Their training has ingrained them with the mindset that the solution to every situation is force. SWAT is not motivated or inclined to negotiate or compromise. And they never withdraw.

TACTICAL RESPONSE -- Plan your operation so that political considerations and/or public relations are more attractive to the authorities than a lethal resolution of the crisis by SWAT.

Weakness: OVERHEATING. Their balaclavas, gloves, shooting goggles, helmets, and combat fatigues mean that they can easily overheat in urban situations. It doesn't take much activity to get them sweating. Literally.

TACTICAL RESPONSE -- Plan an operation that will require lots of physical movement by the SWAT members. Give them lots to crawl over, and around. Even big guys don't have much stamina when they start to overheat.

Weakness: PERIMETER OVER-RELIANCE. They always set up perimeter control. They are dependent on the "holding pen" strategy.

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In Mogadishu the Delta Force "operators" were highly skilled, battle-tested veterans capable of almost anything, but their support and perimeter control team, the U.S. Army Rangers, were young, inexperienced, overconfident, and unready for the ugly realities of real combat. The elite Delta Force members are referred to; also have a serious lack of communication with the Rangers and other military units. This can be turned to your advantage.

TACTICAL RESPONSE -- Post a sniper outside their perimeter and SWAT becomes vulnerable to a flanking attack.

Weakness: ONE TRICK PONY. They are trained to attack fixed targets. They are befuddled and confused by a moving target. Especially a target they are continually losing contact with.

TACTICAL RESPONSE -- Hit and run. Then disappear. Your key to tactical success consists of carefully planned escape routes, accomplice drivers, and prearranged support (i.e. hiding) from the local population.

Weakness: LACK OF INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE. Without their body-rig communication sets, SWAT members are lost. UHF frequency range is often less than a mile. Range deteriorates in locations with reinforced concrete and metal debris.

TACTICAL RESPONSE -- Forcing or duping a SWAT member to transmit bogus messages over his transponder is an effective tactic for disorienting the entire team. Seizing a transponder and issuing your own messages is effective psychological warfare. Your voice is right inside their heads -- and these guys aren't exactly the brightest specimens our species has produced. Selecting a location that interferes with UHF transmission is a sound tactic.

3 RULES FOR BEATING SWAT:

RULE #1 -- Surround the SWAT element, including its perimeter force.

RULE #2 -- Fight scattered, never in a compact body.

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RULE #3 -- When attacked, never stand and fight. Retreat, then counterattack.

Some resistance movements hold the view that if surrounded, you should immediately pick the weakest point, focus on it, and make a determined effort to break out. The resulting break in the enemy's line will produce two exposed flanks which you can counterattack. Savvy readers and students of American history will recognize these tactics as the same as those used by the natives to maul the British Regular Army in the 1600s and 1700s in colonial America.

All things considered, however, your greatest single asset is your ability to choose the location. This means planning ahead. It means being a moving target. It means not sleeping where SWAT can find you. Heed the warning in the training manual of the Provisional IRA -- "Get your defense before you get your offense."

*******Again, the MTOA does not endorse this article. Being well informed is a tool SWAT members require. Most of the article is inaccurate, and is obviously written to attempt to misinform citizens that have no knowledge about the true professionalism and skill that SWAT and Special Forces teams employ on a daily basis. Most SWAT incidents are brought to a peaceful resolution without the need for shots to be fired. That is achieved by the high level of skill and restraint that comes from years of training and performing missions. Do not let this article sway your faith in the common citizen you are sworn to protect. Continue doing your job the best you can. Extremists have nothing good to say about anyone not within their specific inner circle. Most citizens out there have faith in the Police and SWAT teams tasked to protect them. Look at the article as an amusing piece of propaganda.*******

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TRAINING... WHAT IS ENOUGH???

Chris Periat - MTOA Secretary

So your department only allows you to train one to two days a month?? Is that enough for you to stay proficient as an operator or sniper?? Good question and one that has been posted in several tactical articles as of late. The NTOA has a national standard, but many administrators shun this as too costly in overtime and training expenses. Are they right?? Well you can't argue with them and if you did, it wouldn't help. If you argue with them they will do one of three things: 1. stay status quo, 2. increase training, or 3. stop training altogether. The latter being the worst case scenario and the one that we all dread. So we all go on training one to two days a month and we're happy with that. What should you do to compensate for the lack of training?? **YOU MUST TRAIN ON YOUR OWN TIME!!!** Wow, what a concept!!! You actually check out your primary weapon from the armory and go to the range or go to an upcoming MTOA training event (coming soon) and you fire some rounds downrange. Go to a tactical school. If your department won't cover the costs, spend some of your own money. Cops are the cheapest folks on Earth. We all know this, but when it comes to being an elite professional operator, the more training the better. If your department won't give you the on-duty time to train, burn a few of those comp hours you've accumulated.

I just read an article on www.Policeone.com that stated HRT operators should shoot 200 rounds a day, and lesser operators should shoot 200 rounds a week. I can't say that anyone I knows department provides for that amount of shooting, except possibly Detroit PD SRT or another full-time team. So, you need to do it on your own. Go down to your local range, on your own time, and just do it... shoot, and then shoot some more. It will only help you and your teammates in the end. Also, document all of your training, even the off-duty stuff. Because when the day comes and you fill some asshole full of hollowpoints or you turn their melon into pink mist with a .308 round, the more documented training you have to give to the prosecutor and civil attorneys in the lawsuit, the better off you'll be. You are professional operators and police snipers... there is no such thing as "just enough" when it comes to training. People should

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be saying things like, "You guys train way too much." And for the record, if you ever hear that phrase, get in your car and go train some more.

I just shot the "Ultimate Sniper Challenge" match sponsored by the Blue Water Sportsman Club and out of 20 contestants only 5 were police snipers. Only 5!!! The match cost \$50 to \$55 dollars depending on whether or not you were a member of the Sportsman Club. This match was the best sniper shooting experience I have ever been involved in. And it was run by civilians with approximately 75% of the competitors being civilians. Not elite police snipers, but civilians. Shouldn't you be more concerned about performing under stress than civilians??? When it comes around again next year I hope to see more of you out there participating. To get more info go to: www.bwsa.com or www.michigan3gun.com. I will be more than happy to point you all in the right direction. Please, get on your computer and do some research for training. It's out there, you just need to pull yourself away from the television and look. Just do it!!!

In conclusion... Train, Train, and Train some more. If your department is like so many that can't afford to train more than once or twice a month, then take the incentive and motivate yourself & your fellow teammates to train off-duty. You won't regret it. Your life and/or someone else's life may depend on it. Any questions email me... chris.periatt@mtoa.org.

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LESS LETHAL UP!!!

Shawn Mortier - MTOA Director of Training

On an early August morning this year our team had the opportunity to employ less-lethal specialty impact munitions “bean-bag” rounds on a suicidal/mental woman. The exact round used was a 12GA DefTec #3037.

That morning the call came out... “mental woman in city park firing shots”. Responding patrol officers could not close with the suspect because she had positioned herself right in the middle of a cut field with little to no source of cover for the responding officers.

With the suspect contained by a loose perimeter SRT was called to handle the situation. When our team arrived, the suspect had not moved from her original position. Our team frequently works split shifts... half the team starting at 0800hrs, the other half starting at noon. With this schedule we can always have a React Team to respond immediately to contain and gather up-to-the-minute intelligence, and have our armored personnel carrier on site. Such was the case that morning. Sgt Tim Dollinger arrived on-scene and spoke with the temporary on-scene patrol commander, and immediately deployed our SRT operators. The operators used 2 shields and 2 large trees as cover and began negotiations with the woman who was still waving her pistol around. At this point the woman had not fired anymore shots. Sgt Dollinger was armed with a Remington 870 with orange stocks loaded with less-lethal munitions, along with his cover officer armed with an HK MP5 sub-machinegun with EOTech HWS sight.

With both officers behind a tree trunk as cover, Sgt Dollinger, along with the Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) members, tried extensively to speak with the woman, but to no avail. By this time it was determined, by our Commander, the woman would not be allowed to “go mobile” with her pistol. This order was communicated via radio to all SRT operators on location.

The woman started to rise to her feet from off her knees when Sgt Dollinger squeezed off 1 round of less-lethal munitions aiming for her

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right shoulder blade area (the hand she was holding the pistol with). Since the distance was later measured to be 83 ft, the bean bag round dropped considerably and struck her on the right hip and buttocks area, causing her to fall flat onto her face, dropping the pistol. At that point 4 operators carrying 2 shields advanced and handcuffed the woman. The woman and the .380ACP pistol were secured and removed from the scene.

The lesson learned here... practice, practice, practice with all your duty weapons and know their Point of Aim--Point of Impact. Our team had been certified in the use of less-lethal munitions and did some practice but did not practice at extreme distances. All operators should know... not to deploy less-lethal munitions at 15 ft and closer on a subject... as this distance can prove fatal, and 75 ft is the maximum effective range of the 12GA bean bag round. Our team was not able to close the gap with this woman due to the terrain in which this incident took place. Our team has discovered, with more range time, firing 12GA less-lethal rounds that a cross-wind will change the bean bag round's point of impact dramatically.

The round is very wind sensitive. Less-lethal munitions are a very useful tool for SWAT Teams. Operators, ask your team Commander and/or Training Coordinator to obtain less-lethal equipment and training to get you certified. Get your less-lethal reps in with this equipment... it is a worthwhile tool (It saved that woman's life that day). Isn't that what SWAT is all about... Saving Lives!!!